

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

4 October--Zhukov left Moscow by air and was seen off by high Soviet military figures, foreign office officials and others. He flew to Tula, where he reportedly met with the vacationing Khrushchev before continuing on to Yugoslavia by ship.

5 October--Khrushchev returned to Moscow from vacation which had begun in mid-August.

7 October--Khrushchev was interviewed by Reuten.

8 October--Zhukov arrived in Yugoslavia.

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8 October-17 October--Zhukov's 9-day visit included military inspections, receptions and occasional speeches which did not depart from the Moscow propaganda line, was not surrounded by undue fanfare.

15 October--US Embassy Warsaw picked up report attributed to Yugoslav officials that Zhukov had taken control of Soviet State Security Committee in August.

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16 October--US Embassy Moscow reported rumors in diplomatic colony that the Party Central Committee was then in session. It noted a sudden increase in movement of official cars in Kremlin area. CBS correspondent in Moscow, Schorr, indicated that Soviet censors had cut passage free his text evidently relating to forthcoming Central Committee plenum.

17 October--Zhukov departed Belgrade for Albania.

17 October-26 October--In Albanian speeches Zhukov expressed Soviet confidence in Albanian Party Chief Hoxha and repeated Soviet Middle East position.

18 October-23 October--Top Soviet leaders did not make usual public appearances.

22 October—

[redacted] Soviet presidium meeting on this date decided to relieve Zhukov as defense minister and replace him with Malinovsky. Presidium at same time decided to assign Rokossovsky to the Trans-Caucasian Military District.

22 October-24 October—A large number of military officers were seen entering and leaving the Kremlin on these nights.

23 October—Marshal Rokossovsky appointed Commander of the Trans-Caucasian Military District.

25 October—At 2:35 PM (Moscow time) TASS gave Zhukov his title as Minister of Defense in announcing that he had arrived at Moscow airport and had been met by "most senior officers." [redacted]

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[redacted] Zhukov drove directly to the Kremlin where he met with other members of the Presidium. Further indication that important meeting in progress in fact that Iranian Embassy was officially requested to delay scheduled reception to which Soviet leaders were invited. Even so, group—including Khrushchev but not Zhukov—arrived an hour late. A 9:10 PM TASS repeat of earlier item on Zhukov return dropped Minister of Defense title and 9:38 PM foreign broadcast announced his relief.

25 October—Moscow correspondents cleared a number of dispatches through censorship reporting Central Committee in session to deal with Zhukov case. There was no official word from Moscow despite persistent reports that an announcement would be made during the day. Pravda's editorial for the day, however, plainly implied political conflict and suggested that issue of party control of armed forces had been raised. [redacted]

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29 October--At Turkish Embassy reception, Khrushchev told newsmen that Zhukov would get new job "in keeping with his experience and qualification suggesting that the Central Committee had passed on Zhukov's demotion.

Red Star and Soviet Aviation called for an improvement in party political work in the armed forces. It said servicemen should be educated "in the spirit of selfless loyalty" to the country and party.

30 October--Reports from Moscow suggest that Central Committee plenum still in session.